

# Family Relationships

The Newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse Quarterly

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## In this issue

As I write this, it is National Families Week, which reminds us all of the important work not only that services and programs do to support families, but the great job that families do themselves in contributing to society and communities and raising the next generation. Families are complex, and myriad issues impact upon their functioning. We hope that the information provided by the AFRC goes some way not just to supporting practitioners and service providers, but also ultimately to helping families.

We're pleased to have articles from a number of eminent researchers published in this edition. Dr Nola Passmore, Associate Professor Judy Feeney and Alex Foulstone report on their research with adoptive families, and effects of the level of secrecy that operates within the family regarding the adoption. Emeritus Professor Pat Noller, an eminent figure in the field of family research, and Anita Blakely-Smith offer an insight into the impact of competition and comparison on adolescent siblings, including twins. This article provides information for practitioners regarding the power dynamics and motivations for certain behaviours in the lives of siblings.

Various other articles are included in this quarterly, with a conference report on the recent National Rural Health Conference, a report on a seminar discussing movement to outcomes-based approaches in programs and an article review on the outcomes of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Our section on trends and statistics provides some information on how Australian families spend their time, and the latest News in Brief section is full of information on recent publications and resources.

We would like to remind readers that the Clearinghouse welcomes contributions for publication. Authors can send articles that describe current initiatives or policies, discuss aspects of family and relationship services practice, or highlight issues in responding to, or preventing, family and relationship difficulties. Please contact the Clearinghouse on [afrc@aifs.gov.au](mailto:afrc@aifs.gov.au) or 03 9214 7888 to discuss any ideas that you may have, or simply to provide feedback.

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